

these informalities. Accordingly, the objections to claim 1 (now canceled and rewritten along with claims 2 and 3 as claim 21) have been resolved as follows:

In step b) of claim 1, "the simulated behavior of design models" has been changed in step c) of claim 21 to --design model simulations-- to overcome the lack of an antecedent. This simulation feature is described at page 12, line 20, through page 14, line 2 of the specification and by the symbol 128 of Figure 2.

In step c) of claim 1 [now step d) of claim 21], "the traces of the simulation generated by the verification process" has been reworded to overcome the lack of an antecedent. This feature is described at page 13, line 9, through page 14, line 2 of the specification.

In step d) of claim 1, "the simulation database" has been changed to --the simulation traces database-- in step e) of claim 21 per the examiner's suggestion. This feature is 136 in Figure 2, and is described at page 13, line 9, through page 15, line 10 of the specification.

In step e), "the test generators and engineers" has been changed to --the test generator, and designers and verification engineers-- in step f) of claim 21 to address the examiner's objection. This language conforms to the functions of 110 and 120 of Figure 2, which are described at page 11, line 16, to page 12, line 7 of the specification.

In step f) of claim 1, [now step g) in claim 21] "the test program database" has been changed to --the test programs database-- as proposed by the examiner. This feature is described in the first paragraph on page 17 of the specification.